THE PREEMINENCE AND PÆDIGREE OF PARLEMENT.

Wherunto is added
A Vindication of ſom Paſſages reflecting upon the Author,
In a Book call'd
The Popiſh Royal Favorite,
Pen'd and Publiſhed by Mr. *Prynne*; wherin he ſtiles him,
No Frend to Parlements, and a Malignant, Pag. 42.
With a clearing of ſom Occurrences in *Spain* at His MAIESTIES being there, cited by the ſaid Maſter *Prynne* out of the *Vocal Foreſt.*

By *J. H.* Eſq; One of the Clerks of His MAIESTIES moſt Honorable Privy-Councel.

Publiſhed by ſpecial Order.

London, Printed by *R. R.* for *Humphrey Moſeley.* 1645.

THE PREEMINENCE AND PRE-EMINENCE OF PARLIAMENT.

TO

My worthily honored Frend,
Sir *W. S.* Knight.

SIR,

I *Have many thanks to give you for the Book you pleaſed to ſend me, called* The Popiſh Royal Favorite; *and according to your advice (which I value in a high degree) I put Pen to Paper, and ſomthing you may ſee I have don (though in a poor Pamphleting way) to clear my ſelf of thoſe aſperſions that are caſt upon me therin. But truly Sir, I was never ſo unfit for ſuch a task; all my Papers, Manuſcripts, and Notes, having bin long ſince ſeized upon and kept from me. Adde hereunto, that beſides this long preſſure and languiſhment of twenty three Moneths cloſe reſtraint (the ſenſe wherof, I find hath much ſtupified my ſpirits) it pleaſed God to viſit me lately with a dangerous fit of ſicknes, a high burning Feaver, with the*

new Diſeaſe, wherof my Body *as well as my* Mind, *is yet ſomwhat crazy: So that (take all afflictions together) I may truly ſay, I have paſſed the* Ordeal, *the fiery Tryal. But it hath pleaſed God to reprieve me to ſee better days I hope; for out of this fatal black* Cloud, *which now oreſets this poor* Iſland, *I hope ther will break a glorious Sun-ſhine of peace and firm happines: To effect which, had I a* Jury, *a* Grand-Jury *of lives, I would ſacrifice them all, and triumph in the oblation.*

So I moſt affectionately kiſſe your hands, and reſt

Your faithful
(though afflicted)
Servant,

From the Priſon
of the *Fleet.*

J. H.

The

The Pre-eminence of *Parlement.*

Sectio Prima.

I Am a free-born *Subject* of the Realm of *England*; whereby I claim as my native Inheritance, an undoubted right, propriety, and portion in the Laws of the Land: And this diſtinguiſheth me from a *Slave.* I claim alſo an intereſt and common right in the High National Court of *Parlement*, and in the Power, the Priviledges and Juriſdiction thereof, which I put in equal ballance with the *Laws*, in regard it is the *Fountain whence they ſpring*: And this I hold alſo to be a principal part of my Birth-right; which great Councel I honour, reſpect, value, and love in as high a degree as can be; as being the *Bulwark of our Liberties, the main boundary and bank which keep us from ſlavery, from the inundations of tyrannical Rule, and unbounded Will-government.* And I hold my ſelf obliged in a tye of indiſpenſable obedience to conform and ſubmit my ſelf to whatſoever ſhall be tranſacted, concluded, and conſtituted by its authority in *Church* or *State*; whether it be by making, enlarging, altering, diminiſhing, diſanulling, repealing, or reviving of any Law, Statute, Act, or Ordinance whatſoever, either touching matters Eccleſiaſtical,

Civil, Common, Capital, Criminal, Martial, Maritine, Municipal, or any other; of all which, the transcendent and uncontrolable Jurisdiction of that Court is capable to take cognizance.

Amongst the three things which the *Athenian* Captain thank'd the gods for, one was, That he was born a *Grecian*, and not a *Barbarian*. For such was the vanity of the *Greeks*, and after them of the *Romans*, in the flouriſh of their Monarchy, to arrogate all civility to themselves, and to term all the world beſides *Barbarians*: So I may say to have cauſe to rejoyce, that I was born a vaſſal to the Crown of *England*; that I was born under ſo well moulded and tempered a Government, which endows the ſubject with ſuch Liberties and Infranchiſements that bear up his natural courage, and keep him ſtill in heart; ſuch Liberties that fence and ſecure him eternally from the gripes and tallons of *Tyranny*: And all this may be imputed to the Authority and Wiſdom of this High Court of *Parlement*, wherin ther is ſuch a rare co-ordination of power (though the Soverainty remain ſtill entire, and untransferable in the perſon of the Prince) ther is, I ſay, ſuch a wholſom mixture 'twixt *Monarchy*, *Optimacy*, and *Democracy*; 'twixt Prince, Peers, and Communalty, during the time of conſultation, that of ſo many diſtinct parts, by a rare co-operation and unanimity, they make but one *Body Politic*, (like that Sheaf of Arrows in the Emblem) one entire concentrical peece; and the reſults of their deliberations, but as ſo many harmonious diapaſons ariſing from different ſtrings. And what greater immunity and happines can ther be to a peeple, then to be liable to no Laws but what they make themſelves? To be ſubject to no Contribution, Aſſeſſement, or any pecuniary levy whatſoever, but what they Vote, and voluntarily yeeld unto themſelves? For in this

compacted

compacted *Politic Body*, there be all degrees of people repreſented; both the Mechanick, Tradeſman, Merchant, and Yeoman, have their incluſive Vote, as well as the Gentry, in the perſons of their Truſtees, their Knights and Burgeſſes, in paſſing of all things. Nor is this Soverain Surintendent Councel an Epitome of this Kingdom onely, but it may be ſaid to have a repreſentation of the whole Univerſe; as I heard a fluent well-worded *Knight* deliver the laſt *Parlement*, who compared the beautiful compoſure of that High Court, to the great Work of God, the World it ſelf: The King to the Sun, the Nobles to the fixed Stars, the Itinerant Judges and other Officers (that go upon Meſſages 'twixt both Houſes) to the Planets; the Clergy to the Element of fire; the Commons, to the ſolid *Body* of Earth, and the reſt of the Elements. And to purſue this compariſon a little farther; as the heavenly Bodies, when three of them meet in *Conjunction*, do uſe to produce ſom admirable effects in the Elementary World: So when theſe *three States* convene and aſſemble in one ſolemn great *Junto*, ſom notable and extraordinary things are brought forth, tending to the welfare of the whole Kingdom, our *Mitrocoſm*.

HE that is never ſo little verſed in the Annales of this Iſle, will find that it hath bin her fate to be four times *conquered*. I exclude the *Scot*; for the ſituation of his Countrey, and the quality of the Clime hath bin ſuch an advantage and ſecurity to him, that neither the *Roman Eagles* would flie thither, for fear of Freezing their Wings; nor any other Nation attempt the work.

Theſe ſo many Conqueſts muſt needs bring with them many tumblings and toſſings, many diſturbances and changes in Government; yet I have obſerved,

that notwithstanding these tumblings, it retained still the form of a *Monarchy*, and something there was alwayes that had an Analogy with the great Assembly the *Parlement*.

The first Conquest I find was made by *Claudius Cæsar*; at which time (as som well observe) the *Roman Ensignes* and the *Standard of Christ* came in together. It is well known what Laws the *Roman* had; He had his *Comitia*, which bore a resemblance with our Convention in *Parlement*; the place of their meeting was called *Prætorium*, and the Laws which they enacted, *Plebescita*.

The *Saxon* Conquest succeeded next, which were the *English*, ther being no name in *Welsh* or *Irish* for an *Englishman*, but *Saxon*, to this day. They governed by *Parlement*, though it were under other names; as *Michel Sinoth*, *Mithel Gemote*, and *Witenage Mote*.

There are Records above a thousand yeers old, of these *Parlements*, in the Raigns of King *Ina*, *Offa*, *Ethelbert*, and the rest of the seven Kings during the *Heptarchy*. The *British* Kings also, who retain'd a great while som part of the Isle unconquered, governed and made Laws by a kind of *Parlementary* way; witnes the famous Laws of Prince *Howel*, called *Howel Dha*, (the good Prince *Howel*) wherof ther are yet extant som Welsh Records. *Parlements* were also used after the *Heptarchy* by King *Kenulphus*, *Alphred*, and others; witnes that renowned *Parlement* held at *Grately* by King *Athelstan*.

The third Conquest was by the *Danes*, and they govern'd also by such general Assemblies, (as they do to this day) witnes that great and so much celebrated *Parlement* held by that mighty Monarch *Canutus*, who was King of *England*, *Denmark*, *Norway*, and *Mher* Regions 150 yeers before the compiling of *Magna Charta*; and this the learned in the Laws do hold.

hold to be one of the ſpecial'ſt, and moſt authentic peeces of Antiquity we have exant. *Edward* the Confeſſor made all his Laws thus, (and he was a great *Legis-lator*) which the *Norman* Conquerour (who liking none of his ſons, made God Almighty his heir, bequeathing unto him this Iſland for a Legacy) did ratifie and eſtabliſh, and digeſted them into one entire methodical Syſteme, which being violated by *Ruſus*, (who came to ſuch a diſaſtrous end, as to be ſhot to death in lieu of a *Buck* for his ſacriledges) were reſtor'd by *Henry* the firſt, and ſo they continued in force till King *John*, whoſe raign is renowned for firſt confirming *Magna Charta*, the foundation of our Liberties ever ſince: Which may be compar'd to divers *Outlandiſh Graffs ſet upon one Engliſh ſtock, or to a Poſie of ſundry fragrant Flowers*; for the choiceſt of the *Britiſh*, the *Roman*, *Saxon*, *Daniſh*, and *Norman* Laws, being cull'd and pick'd out, and gathered as it were into one bundle, out of them the foreſaid *grand Charter* was extracted: And the eſtabliſhment of this great Charter was the work of a *Parlement*.

Nor are the Laws of *this Iſland* onely, and the freedom of the Subject conſerved by *Parlement*, but all the beſt policed Countreys of *Europ* have the like. The *Germanes* have their *Diets*, the *Danes* and *Swedes* the *Riicks Dachs*; the *Spaniard* calls his *Parlement Las Cortes*, and the *French* have (or ſhould have at leaſt) their *Aſſembly of three States*, though it be grown now in a manner obſolete, becauſe the Authority therof was (by accident) devolv'd to the *King*. And very remarkable it is, how this hapned; for when the *Engliſh* had taken ſuch large footing in moſt parts of *France*, having advanced as far as *Orleans*, and driven their then King *Charls* the ſeventh to *Bourges* in *Berry*; the *Aſſembly of the three States* in theſe preſſures, being not able to meet after the uſual manner

in full *Parlement*, becauſe the Countrey was unpaſſable; the enemy having made ſuch firm invaſions up and down through the very bowels of the Kingdom; that power which formerly was inherent in the *Parlementary Aſſembly*, of making Laws, of aſſeſſing the Subject with Taxes, ſubſidiary levies, and other impoſitions, was tranſmitted to the *King* during the War; which continuing many yeers, that intruſted power by length of time grew as it were habitual in him, and could never after be re-aſſumed and taken from him; ſo that ever ſince, his *Edicts* countervail *Acts* of *Parlement*. And that which made the buſines more feaſable for the *King*, was, that the burthen fell moſt upon the Communalty (the Clergy and Nobility not feeling the weight of it) who were willing to ſee the *Peaſan* pull'd down a little, becauſe not many yeers before in that notable Rebellion, call'd *La Jaquerie de Beauvoiſin*, which was ſuppreſſed by *Charls the wiſe*, the common people put themſelves boldly in Arms againſt the Nobility and Gentry, to leſſen their power. Add hereunto as an advantage to the work, that the next ſucceeding King *Lewis the eleventh*, was a cloſe cunning Prince, and could well tell how to play his game, and draw water to his own Mill; For amongſt all the reſt, he was ſaid to be the firſt that put the Kings of *France*, *Hors de page*, out of their minority, or from being *Pages* any more, though thereby he brought the poor *Peaſans* to be worſe then *Lacquays*.

With the fall, or at leaſt the diſcontinuance of that uſual *Parliamentary Aſſembly* of the *three States*, the liberty of the *French* Nation utterly fell; the poor *Roturier* and Vineyard-man, with the reſt of the Yeomanry, being reduced ever ſince to ſuch an abject *eſclin* condition, that *they ſerve but as ſponges for the King to ſqueeze when he liſt*. Nevertheleſſe, as that King

hath

hath an advantage hereby one way, to *monarchize* more absolutely, and never to want money, but to *ballast his Purse* when he will: so ther is another mighty inconvenience ariseth to him and his whole Kingdom another way; for this illegal peeling of the poor *Peasan* hath so dejected him, and cowed his native courage so much by the sense of poverty (*which brings along with it a narrownes of soul*) that he is little useful for the War: which puts the *French* King to make other Nations mercenary to him, to fill up his *Infantry*: Insomuch, that the Kingdom of *France* may be not unfitly compared to a body that hath all its blood drawn up into the Arms, Brest and Back, and scarce any left from the Girdle downwards, to cherish and bear up the lower parts, and keep them from starving.

All this seriously considered, ther cannot be a more proper and pregnant example then this of our *next Neighbours*, to prove how infinitely necessary the *Parlement* is, to assert, to prop up, and preserve the Publike Liberty, and National Rights of a peeple, with the incolumity and welfare of a Countrey.

Nor doth the *Subject* onely reap benefit thus by *Parlement*, but the *Prince* (if it be well consider'd) hath equal advantage thereby; It rendereth him a King of *free* and *able* men, which is far more glorious then to be a King of *Slaves*, *Beggars*, and *Bankrupts*; Men that by their freedom, and competency of wealth, are kept still in heart to do him service against any forrain force. And it is a true maxime in all States, that 'tis lesse danger and dishonour for the Prince to be poor, then his peeple: Rich Subjects can make their King rich when they please; if he gain their hearts, he will quickly get their purses: *Parlement* encreaseth love and good intelligence 'twixt him and his peeple; it acquaints him with the reality of things,

and

and with the true ſtate and diſeaſes of his Kingdom; it brings him to the knowledg of his better ſort of Subjects, and of their abilities, which he may employ accordingly upon all occaſions; it provides for his Royal Iſſve, payes his debts, finds means to fill his Coffers: And it is no ill obſervation. The *Parlemenary-moneys* (the *great Aid*) have proſpered beſt with the Kings of *England*; it exceedingly raiſeth his repute abroad, and enableth him to keep his *foes in fear, his Subjects in awe, his Neighbours and Confederates in ſecurity*, the three main things which go to aggrandize a Prince, and render him glorious. In ſum, it is the *Parlement* that ſupports, and bears up the honour of his Crown, and ſettles his Throne in ſafety, which is the chief end of all their conſultations: For whoſoever is entruſted to be a Member of this High Court, carrieth with him a double capacity; he ſits there as a *Patriot*, and as a *Subject*: As he is the one, the Countrey is his object, his duty being to vindicate the Publike Liberty, to make wholſom Laws, to put his hand to the pump, and ſtop the leaks of the great veſſel of the State: to pry into and puniſh corruption and oppreſſion, to improve and advance trade, to have the grievances of the place he ſerves for redreſſed, and caſt about how to find ſomthing that may tend to the advantage of it.

But he muſt not forget that he ſits there alſo as a *Subject*; and according to that capacity, he muſt apply himſelf to do his *Soveraigns* buſines, to provide not onely for his *publike*, but his *perſonal* wants; to bear up the luſtre and glory of his *Court*; to conſider what occaſions of extraordinary expences he may have, by encreaſe of Royal Iſſue, or maintenance of any of them abroad; to enable him to vindicate any affront or indignity that might be offered to his Perſon, Crown, or Dignity, by any *forrain* State or Kingdom;

to

to consult what may enlarge his *honour*, *contentment* and *pleasure*. And as the *French Tacitus* (*Comines*) hath it, the *English* Nation was used to be more forward and zealous in this particular then any other, according to that ancient elcquent speech of a great *Lawyer*, *Domus Regis vigilia defendit omnium, otium illius labor omnium, deliciæ illius industria omnium, vacatio illius occupatio omnium, salus illius periculum omnium, honor illius objectum omnium.* Every one should stand Centinel to defend the Kings Houses, his *safety* should be the *danger* of all, his *pleasures* the *industry* of all, his *ease* should be the *labour* of all, his *honour* the *object* of all.

Out of these premisses this conclusion may be easily deduced, that, *The principal Fountain whence the King derives his happines and safety, is his Parlement:* It is that great Conduit-Pipe which conveighs unto him his peeples bounty and gratitude; the truest Looking-Glasse wherin he discerns their loves; now *the Subjects love hath bin alwayes accounted the prime Cittadel of a Prince.* In his *Parlement* he appears as the Sun in the Meridian, in the altitude of his glory, *in his highest State Royal*, as the Law tels us.

Therfore whosoever is avers or disaffected to this Soveraign Law-making Court, cannot have his heart well planted within him: He can be neither good *Subject*, nor good *Patriot*; and therfore unworthy to breathe *English* air, or have any benefit, advantage, or protection from the Laws.

Sectio

Sectio Secunda.

BY that which hath been ſpoken, *which is the language of my heart*, I hope no indifferent judicious Reader will doubt of the cordial affection, of the high reſpects and due reverence I bear to *Parlement*, as being the wholſomeſt conſtitution (and don by the higheſt and happieſt reach of policy) that ever was eſtabliſhed in this *Iſland*, to perpetuate the happines therof: Therfore I muſt tell that *Gentleman* who was Author of a Book entituled *The Popiſh Royal Favorite*, (lately Printed and expoſed to the world) that he offers me very hard meaſure; nay, he doth me apparant wrong, to terme me therein *No frend to Parlement, and a Malignant*; A character, which as I *deſerve* it not, ſo I *diſdain* it.

For the firſt part of his charge, I would have him know, that I am as much a *frend, and as real an affectionate humble ſervant and votary* to the *Parlement*, as poſſibly he can be, and will live and die with theſe affections about me: And I could wiſh, that he were Secretary of my thoughts a while; or if I may take the boldnes to apply that compariſon His late Majeſtie uſed in a famous ſpeech to one of his *Parlements*, I could wiſh there were a Cryſtal Window in my Breſt, through which the world might eſpie the inward motions and palpitations of my heart; then would he be certified of the ſincerity of this Proteſtation.

For the ſecond part of his charge, to be a *Malignant*, I muſt confeſſe to have ſom *Malignity* that lurks within me,

me, much againſt my will; but it is no *maligniy* of *mind*, it is amongſt the *humours*, not in my *intellectuals*. And I beleeve, there is no natural man, let him have his *humours* never ſo well ballanced, but hath ſom of this *malignity* raigning within him; For as long as we are compoſed of the four *Elements*, whence theſe *humours* are derived, and with whom they ſymbolize in qualities; which *Elements* the Philoſophers hold to be in a reſtleſſe contention amongſt themſelves (and the Stoick thought that the world ſubſiſted by this innatemutual ſtrife) as long, I ſay, as the four *humours*, in imitation of their principles (the *Elements*) are in perpetual reluctancy and combate for prædominancy, ther muſt be ſome *malignity* lodg'd within us, as aduſted choler, and the like; wherof I had late experience in a dangerous fit of ſicknes it pleaſed God to lay upon me, which the Phyſitians told me proceeded from the *malignant* hypocondriacal effects of *melancholy*; having been ſo long in this *Saturnine* black condition of cloſe impriſonment, and buried a live between the Wals of this fatal *Fleet*. Theſe kinds of *malignities*, I confeſſe are very rife in me, and they are not onely incident, but connatural to every man according to his complexion: And were it not for this inceſſant ſtrugling and enmity amongſt the *humours* for maſtery, which produceth ſuch *malignant* effects in us, our ſouls would be loth ever to depart from our bodies, or to abandon this manſion of clay.

Now what *malignity* my *Accuſer* means, I know not; if he means *malignity* of *ſpirit*, as ſom antipathy or ill impreſſion upon the mind, ariſing from diſaffection, hatred, or rancor, with a deſire of ſom deſtructive revenge, he is mightily deceiv'd in me; I *maligne* or hate no Creature that ever God made, but the *Devil*, who is the Author of all *malignity*; and therfore

therfore is moſt commonly called in French *le Malin Aſprit* the *malignant ſpirit*. Every night before I go to bed, I have the grace, I thank God for it, to forgive all the world, and not to harbour, or let rooſt in my boſom the leaſt *malignant* thought; yet none can deny, but the aſperſions which this my *Accuſer* caſts upon me, were enough to make me a *malignant* towards him; yet it could never have the power to do it: For I have prevail'd with my ſelf to forgive him this his wrong cenſure of me, iſſuing rather from his *not-knowledge* of me, then from *malice*; for we never mingled ſpeech, or ſaw one another in our lives, to my remembrance: which makes me wonder the more, that a Profeſſor of the *Law*, as he is, ſhould pronounce ſuch a poſitive ſentence againſt me ſo ſlightly. But me thinks I over-hear him ſay, That the precedent diſcourſe of *Parlement* is involv'd in generals, and the Tropique Axiome tels us, that *Dolus verſatur in univerſalibus*, there is double dealing in univerſals: His meaning is, that I am no friend to this preſent *Parlement* (though he ſpeaks in the plural number *Parlements*) and conſequently, he concludes me a *Malignant*; Therin, I muſt tell him alſo, that I am traduc'd, and I am confident it will be never prov'd againſt me, from any *actions*, *words*, or *letters* (though divers of mine have bin intercepted) or any other miſdemeanor, though ſom things are father'd upon me which never drop'd from my Quill. Alas, how unworthy and uncapable am I to cenſure the proceedings of that great *Senate*, that high *Synedrion*, wherin the wiſdom of the whole State is epitomized? It were a preſumption in me, of the higheſt nature that could be: It is enough for me to pray for the proſperous ſucceſſe of their conſultations: And as I hold it my *duty*, ſo I have good *reaſon* ſo to do, in regard I am to have my ſhare in the happines; And could the utmoſt of

my

my poor endeavours, by any miniſterial humble office (and ſomtimes the meaneſt *Boat-ſwain* may help to preſerve the Ship from ſinking) be ſo happy, as to contribute any thing to advance that great work (which I am in deſpair to do, while I am thus under *hatches* in this *Fleet*) I would eſteem it the greateſt honour that poſſibly could befal me, as I hold it now to be my greateſt diſaſter, to have faln ſo heavily under an affliction of this nature, and to be made a ſacrifice to *publike fame*, then which ther is no other proof, nor *that* yet urg'd againſt me, or any thing elſe produc'd after ſo long, ſo long captivity, which hath brought me to ſuch a low ebbe, and put me ſo far behind in the courſe of my poor fortunes, and indeed more then half undon me. For although my whole life (ſince I was left to my ſelf to *ſwim*, as they ſay, *without bladders*) has bin nothing elſe but a continued ſucceſſion of croſſes, and that there are but few red letters found (God wot) in the Almanack of my Age, (for which I account not my ſelf a whit the leſſe *happy*;) yet this croſſe has carried with it a greater weight; it hath bin of a larger extent, longer continuance, and lighted heavier upon me then any other; and as I have *preſent patience* to bear it, ſo I hope for *ſubſequent grace* to make uſe of it accordingly, that my old Motto may be ſtill confirmed, παθήματα μαθήματα.

HE produceth my atteſtation for ſom paſſages in *Spain*, at His Majeſties being there, and he quotes me right, which obligeth me to him: And I hope all his quotations, wherin he is ſo extraordinarily copious and elaborate in all his works, are ſo; yet I muſt tell him, that thoſe interchangeable Letters which paſſed between His Majeſty and the *Pope*, which were originally couch'd in *Latine*, the language wher-

in

in all Nations treat with *Rome*, and the *Empire* with all the Princes therof; those Letters, I say, are adulterated in many places, which I impute not to him, but to the *French Chronicler*, from whom he took them in trust. The truth of that busines is this: The world knows ther was a tedious treaty of an Alliance 'twixt the Infanta *Dona Maria* (who now is *Empresse*) and His Majesty, which in regard of the slow affected pace of the *Spaniard*, lasted about ten yeers, as that in *Henry* the sevenths time, 'twixt Prince *Arthur* and (afterwards) Queen *Katherine*, was spun out above *seven*: To quicken, or rather to *consummate* the work, His Majesty made that adventurous journey through the whole Continent of *France* into *Spain*; which voyage, though ther was a great deal of gallantry in it (wherof all posterity will ring, until it turn at last to a *Romance*) yet it prov'd the bane of the busines, which 'tis not the arrand of so poor a Pamphlet as this to unfold. His Majesty being ther arriv'd, the ignorant common people cryed out, the *Prince* of *Wales* came thither to make himself a *Christian*. The *Pope* writ to the *Inquisitor General*, and others, to use all industry they could to reduce him to the *Roman* Religion; And one of *Olivares* first complements to him, was, *That he doubted not but that His Highnes came thither to change His Religion*: Wherunto he made a short answer, *That He came not thither for a Religion, but for a Wife.* Ther were extraordinary processions made, and other artifices us'd by protraction of things to make him stay ther of purpose till the Spring following, to work upon him the better: And the *Infanta* her self desir'd him (which was esteem'd the greatest favour he received from her all the while) to visit the *Nun of Carion*; hoping that the said Nun, who was so much cryed up for miracles, might have wrought one upon him; but her art failed her, nor

was

was His Highneſſe ſo weak a ſubject to work upon, according to His late Majeſties ſpeech to Doctor *Mawe* and *Wren*, who when they came to kiſſe his hands, before they went to *Spain* to attend the Prince their Maſter, *He wiſhed them to have a care of Buckingham; as touching his Son* Charls, *he apprehended no fear at all of him; for he knew him to be ſo well grounded a* Proteſtant, *that nothing could ſhake him in his Religion.* The *Arabian* Proverb is, That the Sun never ſoiles in his paſſage, though his Beams reverberate never ſo ſtrongly, and dwell never ſo long upon the Myry lake of *Maotis*, the black Turf'd Moors of *Holland*, the Aguiſh Wooſe of *Kent* and *Eſſex*, or any other place, be it never ſo dirty. Though *Spain* be a hot Country, yet one may paſſe and repaſſe through the very Center of it, and never be Sun-burnt, if he carry with him a *Bongrace*, and ſuch a one His Majeſty had.

Well, after His Majeſties arrival to *Madrid*, the treaty of Marriage went on ſtill, (though he told them at his firſt coming, that he came not thither like an *Ambaſſadour*, to treat of Marriage; but as a *Prince*, to fetch home a Wife;) and in regard they were of different Religions, it could not be done without a diſpenſation from the *Pope*, and the *Pope* would grant none, unleſs ſom Capitulations were ſtipulated in favour of the Romiſh Catholikes in *England*; (the ſame in ſubſtance were agreed on with *France*.) Well, when the diſpenſation came, which was negotiated ſolely by the King of *Spains* Miniſters; becauſe His Majeſty would have as little to do as might be with *Rome*, Pope *Gregory* the fifteenth, who died a little after, ſent His Majeſty a Letter, which was delivered by the *Nuncio*, wherof an anſwer was ſent a while after: Which Letters were imprinted and expoſed to the view of the world, becauſe His Majeſty would not have peeple whiſper, that the buſines was carried in a clandeſtine

clandeſtine manner. And truely beſides this, I do not know of any Letter, or Meſſage, or Complement, that ever paſs'd 'twixt His Majeſty and the Pope, afore or after; ſom addreſſes peradventure might be made to the Cardinals, to whom the drawing of thoſe matrimonial diſpatches was referred, to quicken the work; but this was onely by way of civil negotiation.

Now touching that Reſponſory Letter from His Majeſty, it was no other then a Complement in the ſevereſt interpretation, and ſuch formalities paſſe 'twixt the Crown of *England*, and the great *Turk*, and divers Heathen Princes. The *Pope* writ firſt, and no man can deny, but by all moral rules, and in common humane civility His Majeſty was bound to anſwer it, ſpecially conſidering how punctual they are in thoſe Countries to correſpond in this kind, how exact they are in repairing viſits, and the performance of ſuch Ceremonies: And had this compliance bin omitted, it might have made very ill impreſſions, as the poſture of things ſtood then; for it had prejudiced the great work in hand, I mean, the *Match*, which was then in the heat and height of agitation: His Majeſties perſon was there engag'd, and ſo it was no time to give the leaſt offence. They that are never ſo little vers'd in buſines abroad, do know that ther muſt be addreſſes, compliances, and formalities of this nature (according to the *Italian* Proverb, *That one muſt ſometimes light a candle to the Devil*) us'd in the carriage of matters of State, as this great buſines was, wheron the eyes of all Chriſtendom were ſo greedily fix'd: A buſines which was like to bring with it ſuch an univerſall good, as the reſtitution of the *Palatinate*, the quenching of thoſe hideous fires in *Germany*, and the eſtabliſhing of a peace through all the Chriſtian World.

I hope none will take offence, that in this particular

which

which comes within the compas of my knowledg, being upon the Stage when this Scene was acted, I do this right to the *King* my Maſter, in diſplaying the *Truth*, and putting her forth in her own colours, a rare thing in theſe dayes.

TOuching the *Vocal Foreſt*, an Allegorical Diſcourſe, that goes abroad under my name, a good while before the beginning of this *Parlement*, which this *Gentleman* cites (and that very faithfully) I underſtand there be ſom that mutter at certain paſſages therin, by putting ill gloſſes upon the Text, and taking with the *left* hand what I offer with the *right*: (Nor is it a wonder for Trees which lie open, and ſtand expoſed to all weathers, to be nipt) But I deſire this favour, which in *common* juſtice, I am ſure in the Court of *Chancery*, cannot be denied me, it being the privileg of evry Author, and a received maxime through the World, *Cujus eſt condere, ejus eſt interpretari*; I ſay, I crave this favour, to have leave to expound my own Text, and I doubt not then but to rectifie any one in his opinion of me, and that in lieu of the *Plums which I give him from thoſe Trees, he will not throw the ſtones at me.*

Moreover, I deſire thoſe that are over critical Cenſurers of that Peece, to know, that as in Divinity it is a rule, *Scriptura parabolica non eſt argumentativa*; ſo it is in all other kind of knowledg. *Parables* (wherof that Diſcourſe is compoſed) *though preſſed never ſo hard, prove nothing.* Ther is another *Rule* alſo, That *Parables* muſt be gently uſed, like a Nurſes Breſt; which if you preſſe too hard, you ſhall have *blood* in ſtead of *milk*.

But as the Author of the *Vocal Foreſt* thinks he hath done, neither his *Countrey*, nor the *Commonwealth* of *Learning* any prejudice thereby; (That

maiden

maiden fancy having received so good entertainment and respect abroad, as to be transflated into divers Languages, and to gain the public approbation of som famous Universities.) So he makes this humble protest unto all the World, that though the designe of that Discourse was partly *Satyrical* (which peradventure induc'd the Author to shrowd it of purpose under the shadows of *Trees*; and wher should Satyres be, but amongst Trees?) yet it never entred into his imagination to let fall from him the least thing that might give any offence to the High and Honourable Court of *Parlement*, wherof he had the honor to be once a Member, and hopes he may be thought worthy again: And were he guilty of such an offence, or *piacle* rather, he thinks he should never forgive himself, though he were appointed his own Judge. If ther occur any passage therin, that may admit a hard construction, let the Reader observe, That the Author doth not positively assert, or passe a judgment on any thing in that Discourse which consists principally of concise, cursory narrations of the choisest Occurrences and Criticisms of State, according as the pulse of time did beat then: And matters of State, as all other sublunary things, are subject to alterations, contingencies and change, which makes the opinions and minds of men vary accordingly; not one amongst twenty is the same man to day as he was four yeers ago, in point of judgment, which turns and alters according to the circumstance and succesle of things: And it is a true saying, wherof we find common experience, *Posterior dies est prioris Magister.* The day following is the former dayes Schoolmaster. Ther's another Aphorism, *The wisdom of one day is foolishnes to another*, and 'twill be so as long as ther is a man left in the World.

I will

I will conclude with this modeſt requeſt to that *Gentleman of the long Robe*; That having unpaſſionately perus'd what I have written in this ſmall *Diſcourſe*, in penning wherof my *conſcience* guided my *quill* all along as well as my *hand*, he would pleaſe to be ſo charitable and juſt, as to revers that harſh ſentence upon me, *To be no Frend to Parlements, and a Malignant.*

FINIS.